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CURIOUS FACTS.

With the exception of birds, men's against longer in proportion to their body than those of any other animal. One thousand pounds of dough for decuits is rolled, cut and prepared for whine in three hours and flity-four sinv by machinery, as sgaines fifty-

our ours by hand, The andue on of natural vegetable into diday to y fermenting the late of the unit is said to equal to-

Dr. Talmage Speaks of Prosperity of American People.

Divine Blessings Showered Upon Us -He Draws Comparisons Between Our Own and Other Countries.

[Copyright, 1900, by Louis Klopech, N. Y.] Washington, Dec. 16.

Dr. Talmage preaches a discourse of Christian patriotism and shows the resources of our country and predicts the time when all the world will have the same blessings. His two texts are Revelation xxi., 13: "On the south three gates;" Psulm exivit.: "He bath not dealt so with any nation."

Among the greatest needs of our country is more gratitude to God for the unparalleled prosperity bestowed upon us. One of my texts calls us to international comparison. What nation on all the planet has of late had such enlargement of commercial opportunity as is now opening before this nation? Cuba and Porto Rico and the Philippine Islands brought into close contact with us, and through steamship subsidy and Niceragua canal, which will surely be efforded by congress, all the republics of South America will be brought into most active trade with the United States. "On the south three gates." While our next-door neighbors, the southern republics and neighboring colonies, imported from European countries 3,000 miles away \$675,000,000 worth of goods in a year, only \$126,-000,000 worth went from the United States-\$126,000,000 out of \$675,000, 080, only one-fifth of the trade our European nations taking the four fin gers and leaving us the poor thumb Now all this is to be changed. There is nothing but a comparative ferry between the islands which have recently come under our protection. and only a ferry between us and Bolivia, Peru, Paraguay, Uruguay, Venezuela, Salvador, Nicaragua, Colombia. Cesta Rica, Equader, Brazil, while there are raging seas and long vovage between them and Europe. By the mandate of the United States all that will be changed through new facilities of transportation. The Hispane-American congress just closed at Madrid Wil fail in its attempt to divert all the trade of South America from us to Europe. What encouraging symptoms that our trade with Cube and Porte Rico has been quadrupled! But that is only a prophecy. "On the south three gates"-yea, a bundred gates!

In anticipation of what is sure to come, I hall on the front door of this

nation an advertisement: Wanted. - One hundred thousand men to build railroads through South America and the islands of the sea

under our protection.

Wanted.-A thousand telegraph op-

Wanted .- One hundred million dollars' worth of dry goods from the great cities of the United States.

Wanted .- All the clocks you can make at New Haven and all the brains you can spare from Boston and all the bells you can mold at Troy and all the reapers you can fashion at Chicago and all the hams you can turn out at Cincinnett and all the railroad iron you can send from Pittsburgh and all the statesmen that you can spare from Washington.

Wanted. - Right away, wanted by new and swift steamers, wanted by rail-train, lawyers to plead our

Wanted .- Doctors to cure our sick Wanted. - Ministers to evangelize our population.

Wanted. - Professors to establish our universities.

"On the south three gares," yes, a thousand gates. South America and all

the islands of the sea approximate are rightfully our commercial domain, and the congress of the United States will see to it that we get what belongs And then tides of travel will be somewhat diverted from Europe to our islands at the south and to the land of the Aztecs. Much of the \$125,000,000 yearly expended by Americans in Eu-

rope will be expended in southern ex ploration, in looking at some of the ruins of the 47 cities which Stephens found only a little way apart and in walking through the great doorways and over the miracles of Mosaic and slong by the monumental glories of another civilization, and ancient America will with cold lips of stone kiss the warm lips of modern America. and to have seen the Andes and Popocatapetl will be deemed as Important us to have seen the Alpine and Balkar. ranges, and there will be fewer people spolled by foreign travel, and in our midst less of the poor and neuscating imitation of the French shrug and the intentional besitancy of a brainless foreign swell. The fact is that many are made vain by European travel, and, though sensible when they embarked. they return with a collar and a cravatand a shoe and a coat and a pronun-ciation and a contempt for American institutions and a bend of the elbow that make one believe in evolution backward from man to ape. Of the many thousands who now cross the ser annually thousands will, on pleasure and business, visit southern lands, and so tourists and merchants and scien tists and capitalists will al! help in this national development. "On the south has such openings for commercial en-

largement as ours? Again, in this international comparison notice the happy condition of our country as compared with most countries; Russis, under the shadow of the dreadful illness of her great and good emperor, who now, more than any man in all the world, represents "peace on earth, good will to men," and whose emp. con pear the most solemn hour that ever comes to mensal the start comes the start comes to mensal the start comes the s

A FAVORED NATION. anxious for him to whom she has given hand and heart, not for political reasons, but through old-fashioned love such as blesses our humbler dwellings; India under the agonles of a famine which, though somewhat lifted, has filled hundreds of thousands of graves and thrown millions into orphanage; Austria only waiting for her genial Francis Joseph to die so as to let Hun-gary rise in rebellion and make the palace of Vienna quake with insurrection; Spain in Carlist revolution and pauperized; Italy under the horrors of her king's assassination; China shuddering with a fear of dismemberment, her capital in possession of foreign nations. After a review of the condition in other lands can you find a more appropriate utterance in regard to our country than the exclamation of the "He hath not dealt so with any

Compare the autumnal report of harvests in America this year and the harvests abroad. Last summer I crossed the continent of Europe twice, and I saw no such harvests as are spoken of in this statement. Hear it, all you men and women who want everybody to have enough to eat and wear. I have to tell you that the corn crop of our country this year is one of the four largest crops on record-2,105,000,000 bushels! The cotton crop, though smaller than at some times, will on that account bring bigger prices, and so cotton planters of the south are prosperous. The wheatfields have provided bread enough and to spare. The potato crop, one of the five largest crops on record-211,-000,000 bushels! Twenty-two million two hundred thousand swine slain, and yet so many hogs left!

But now I give you the comparative exports and imports, which tell the story of national prosperity as nothing else can. Excess of exports over Imports, \$544,400,000. Now let all pessimists hide themselves in the dens and caves of the earth, while all grateful souls fill the churches with doxol-Notice also that while other countries are at their wits' ends as to their finances this nation has money to lend. Germany, we are glad to see you in Wall street. If you must borrow money, we have it all ready. How much will you have? Russia, we also welcome you into our money markets. Give us good collateral. Meanwhile, Denmark, will you please accept our offer of \$3,000,000 for the Island of St. Thomas? My hearers, there is no nation on earth with such healthy condition of finances. We wickedly waste an awful amount of money in this country, but some one has said it is easier

to manage a surplus than a deficit. Besides this, we have in our country plenty of room, while the trans-Atlantic nations are crowded-crowded oitles, crowded governments, crowded learned institutions; the population crowded, packed in between the Pyre nees and the Alps, packed in between the English channel end the Adrietic. Yes, on our continent plenty of room. Eight million square miles in North America and all but one-seventh capable of rich cultivation, implying what fertility and commerce! Four basins pouring their waters into the Atlantic, Pacific, Arctic and Gulf of Mexico! When I hear a man expressing the fear that this country is going to be crowded. I know right away he has not been in Texas. France has about 59,000,000 of people, but Texas is larger than France; Germany about 67,000,000 of people, but Texas is larger than Ger-

Aguin there is no land on earth where the political condition is so satisfactory as in ours. Every two years In the state and every four years in the nation we clean house. After a vehement expression of the people at the ballot box in the autumnal election they all seem satisfied, and if they are not satisfied, at any rate they smile. An Englishman asked me in an English rail trein this question: "How do you people stand it in America with a revo-lution every four years? Would it not be better, like us, to have a queen for a lifetime and everything settled?" But England changes government just as certainly as we do. At some adverse vote in parliament out goes one party and in comes another. Administrations change there, but not as advantageously as with us, for there they may change almost any day, while with us a party in power continues in power

at least four years.

It is said that in our country we have more dishonesty in the use of public funds than in other lands. The difference is that in our country almost every officer has a chance to steal, while in other lands a few people absorb so much that the others have no chance at appropriation. The reason they do not steal is because they cannot get their hands on it. The governments of Europe are so expensive that after the salaries of the royal families are paid there is not much left to misapprepriate. The emperor of Russia has a nice little salary of \$8,210,000. The emperor of Austria has a yearly salary of \$4,000,-000. Victoria, the queen, has a salary of \$2,200,000. The royal plate of St. James palace is worth \$10,000,000. There is a bost of attendants, all on salaries, some of them \$5,000 a year, some \$8,000 a year. Comptroller of the household, mistress of the robes, esptain of gold stick, Beutenant of silver stick, clerk of the powder closet, pages of the beck stairs, master of the horse, chief equerry, equerries in ordinary, erown equerry, hereditary grand falconer, vice chamberlain, clerk of the kitchen, grooms in waiting, lords in waiting, grooms of the court chamber, sergeant-at-arms, barge master and waterman, eight bedehamber women, eight ladies of the bedchamber and so on and so on. All this is only a type of the fabulous expense of foreign governments. Ali this is paid out of the sweat and blood of the people. Are the people satis-fied? However much the Germans tike William, and Austria likes Fran-cis Joseph, and England likes her gierious queen, these stupendous gov-

group of dissatisfaction as wide as Europe. If it were left to the people of England or Austria or Germany or Russia whether these expensive estab-lishments should be kept up, do you doubt what the vote would be? Now, is it not better that we be overtaxed and the surplus be distributed all over the land than to have it built up and piled up inside of palaces?

Continuing this international comparison, I have to say to you that we have a better climate than is to be found in any other nation. We do not suffer from anything like the Scotch mists or the English fogs or the Russian ice blasts or the typhus of southern Europe or the Asiatie cholera. Epidemics in America are exceptional, very exceptional. Plenty of wood and coal to make a roaring fire midwinter, easy access to sea beach or mountain top when the ardors of summer come down, Michigan wheat for the bread, Long Island corn for the meal, Carolina rice for the queen of puddings, Louisiana sugar to sweeten our beverages, Georgia cotton to keep us warm. In our land all products and all climates. Are your nerves weak? Go north. Is your throat delicate? Go south. Do you feel crowded and want more room? Go west. I declare it: This is the best country in all the world to live in. How do I know it? I have 650,000 new reasons for saying it. Six hundred and fifty thousand people in one year came from the other side of the Atlantic to live in America, and they came because it is the very best country to live in.

While making this international comparison let us look forward to the time which will surely come when all nations will have as great advantages as our own. As surely as the Bible is true the whole earth is to be gardenized and set free.

Many years ago in this city I gazed upon a scene which for estamity and grandeur one seldom sees equaled. I mean the burning of the Smithsonian institution. It was the pride of our country. In it art had gathered rarest specimens from all lands and countries. It was one of those buildings which seize you with enchantment as you enter, and all the rest of your life holds you with a charm. I happened to see the first glow of the fires which on that cold day looked out from the windows of the costly pile. I saw the angry elements rear and rave. The shout of affrighted workmen and the assault of fire engines only seemed to madden the rage of the monsters that rose up to devour all that came within reach of their chain. Up along the walls and through the doors were pushed hands that snatched down all they could reach and hurled it into the abyes of flame beneath. The windows of the tower would light up for a minute with a wild glare and then darken, as though flends with streaming locks of fire had come to gaze on in laughing mockery at all human attempts and then sunk again into their native darkness. With crackle and roar and crash the floors tumbled. The roofs began here and there to blossom in wreaths and vines of flame. Up and down the pillars ran serpents of fire. Out from the windows great arms and fingers of flame were extended, as though destroyed spirits were begging for deliverance. The tower put on a coronet of fiame and staggered and fell, sparks flying, the firemen escaping, the terror accumulating. Books, maps, rare correspondence, autographs of kings, costly diagrams burned to cinder or scattered for many a rood upon the wild wind, to be picked up by the excited multitude. Oh, it seemed like some great funeral pile in which the wealth and glory of our land had leaped to burn with its consuming treasures. The heavens were blackened with whirlwinds of smoke, through which shot the long red shafts of calamity. Destruction waved its flery banner from the remaining towers, and in the thunder of falling beams and in the roaring surge of billowing fire I heard the spirits of ruin and desolation and woe clapping their hands and shouting: "Aha! aha!"

I turned and looked upon the white dome of yonder capitol, which rose through the frosty air as imposing as though all the white marble of the earth had come to resurrection and stood before us, reminding one of the great white throne of Heaven. There it stood, unmoved by the terrors which that day had been kindled before it. No tremor in its majestic columns, no frown on its magnificent sculpture, no flush of excitement in its veins of marble. Column and capital and dome, built to endure until the world itself shatters in convulsions of the last earthquake. Oh, what a contrast behand and that gorgeous dream of architecture on the other! Well, the day speeds on when the grandest achievement of man will be consumed and the world will blaze. Down will go galleries of art and thrones of royalty, and the hurricane of God's power will scatter even the ashes of consumed greatness and glory. Not one tower left, not one city unconsumed, not one scene of grandeur to relieve the desolation. Forests dismasted, seas licked up, continents sunk, hemispheres annihilated. Oh, the roar and thundering crash of that last conflagration! But from that ruin of a binzing earth we shall look up to see the temple of liberty and justice rising through the ages, white and pure and grand, unscarred and unshaken. Founded on the eternal rook and swelling into domes of infinitude and glory, in which the halleluiahs of Heaven have their reverberation. No flame of human bate shall blacken its walls. No thunder of infernal wrath shall rock its foundations. By the upheld torches of burn-ing worlds we shall read it on column and architrave and throne of eternal dominion: "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but truth and liberty and justice shall never pass away."

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